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REFERENCE: BO Q870

ATTACHMENT TO M-5593
29 JANUARY 1969
PAGE 1

IRRIGATION CANALS UNDER CONSTRUCTION
NAM DINH AREA, NORTH VIETNAM
2023N 10605E

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW IRRIGATION CANALS UTILIZING MANUAL LABOR EXCLUSIVELY.

2. LOCATION:

APPROXIMATELY 6.0 NM SOUTHWEST OF NAM DINH, IN THE VICINITY OF UTM XH130540.

3. BACKGROUND:

THE SEASONAL PATTERN OF RAINFALL IN VIETNAM NECESSITATES AN IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL PROGRAM TO INCREASE CROP PRODUCTION. DURING THE WINTER MONSOON (OCTOBER-APRIL) A SUPPLEMENTAL WATER SUPPLY USUALLY IS NEEDED TO MATURE CROPS. DURING THE SUMMER MONSOON (MAY-OCTOBER) THESE SAME FIELDS MUST BE PROTECTED FROM EXCESSIVE FLOODING AND MUST BE CONTINUALLY DRAINED. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY SMALL COMMUNITY PROJECTS DEPENDENT UPON PEASANT LABOR. THE OBJECTIVE OF THESE PROJECTS IS TO CONSTRUCT MULTIPURPOSE WATER CONTROL SYSTEMS NEAR THE HEADWATERS OF MAJOR RIVERS. A NECESSARY PRELIMINARY STEP IS TO COMPLETE IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE LOWER REACHES OF RIVERS AND THROUGHOUT THE DELTA AREAS.

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GROUP 1: EXCLUDED FROM
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PAGE 24. MISSION READOUT:

PHOTOGRAPHY OF BUMPY ACTION MISSION Q870, 16 JANUARY 1969, REVEALS THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW IRRIGATION CANALS USING MANUAL LABOR AS THE MEANS OF CONSTRUCTION.

THE FIRST CANAL, LOCATED AT UTM XHL25527, IS APPROXIMATELY 0.6 NM LONG. THIS CANAL IS IN A MID-STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION AND ACTIVITY CONSISTS OF APPROXIMATELY 200 PERSONNEL (ALL NOT SHOWN ON GRAPHIC) IN THE PROCESS OF MOVING EARTH AND SHAPING THE ANGULAR SIDES OF THE CANAL. WHEN COMPLETED THIS NEW CANAL WILL CONNECT WITH AN EXISTING CANAL SYSTEM.

THE SECOND CANAL, LOCATED AT UTM XHL37545, IS IN AN INITIAL STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION. THE PRESENT EARTH SCARRING AND ALIGNMENT IS APPROXIMATELY 0.8 NM LONG WITH CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 900 PERSONNEL (ALL NOT SHOWN ON GRAPHIC) IN THE PROCESS OF DIGGING THE CANAL. THE SOUTH END OF THIS CANAL WILL PROBABLY CONNECT WITH AN EXISTING CANAL AT UTM XHL38542.

5. REMARKS:

THE PROJECTS OBSERVED ARE APPARENTLY BEING BUILT TO INCREASE DOMESTIC RICE PRODUCTION WHICH HAS DROPPED FROM 5.2 MILLION TONS IN 1959 TO 3.8 MILLION TONS IN 1968.

IN ADDITION, IT WAS NECESSARY TO IMPORT APPROXIMATELY ONE-QUARTER MILLION TONS OF RICE IN 1968. THE AREA OBSERVED IS ANNUALLY SUBJECTED TO SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST SERIOUS FLOODING. ALTHOUGH THIS IS NORMALLY THE DRY SEASON IN

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NORTH VIETNAM SOME MINOR FLOODING IS OBSERVED IN THE AREA.

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MAP REFERENCE: AMS SERIES L7014, SHEET 6249 IV 1:50,000

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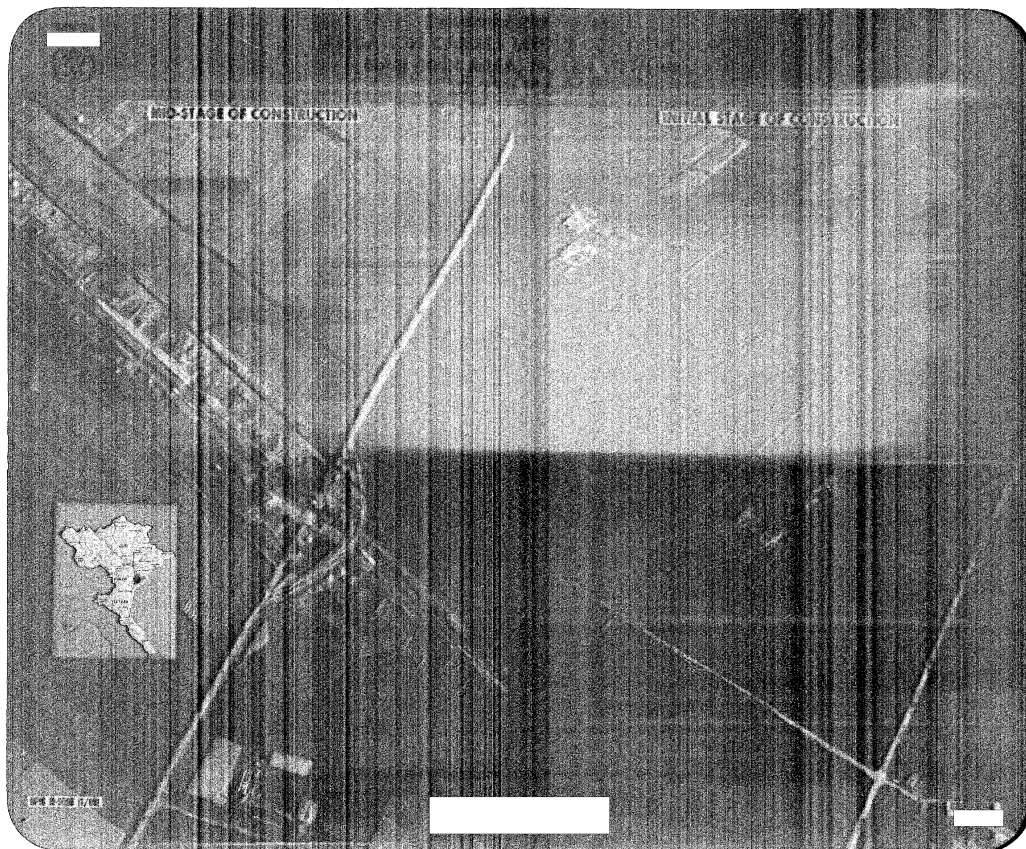
M 5593 /69

NPIC CONTROL NUMBER

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